



MINUTES

MORGANTOWN RIVER TOWN ACTION TEAM MEETING

March 6, 2014

**Next Meeting: Thursday, April 3rd 4:30- 6 pm Hazel Ruby
McQuain Park**

I. Introduction of those in attendance

Beth Reseter
Tim Terman
Jeff Mikorski
Bill Kaweck
George Papandreas
Jenny Selin
Marissa Travinsky
Melissa Burch
Marti Shamberger
Mike Fike
Rumy Hilloowala
Ella Belling

- II. Tim Terman: A long -time supporter of the river and river-related activities, Tim is well known for his active and passionate work in keeping the Mon River clean and accessible. He is now spearheading an effort to build a replica flat boat to be moored at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park and to serve as both an educational as well as visitor amenity. Tim offered the

and is connection to the area and to the river.
use the necessary resources (budget is \$39,000)

to complete the construction. There is a flat boat committee and anyone interested in donating time and money should contact Tim. He agreed to keep us apprised and any additional information on the fund raising aspect of the project can be included in the River Town newsletter.

III. Beth Reseter, Point Marion spoke not only about the enthusiasm Point Marion residents have for the Sheepskin Trail connection to the Mon River Trail in Morgantown but also about the shared history of the region and the connection between Albert Gallatin, and his Friendship Hill home (now a National Historic Landmark) and Morgantown. Point Marion has participated in the River Town Program for the last three years and Beth shared the positive impact of the program. Key projects in Point Marion were public art (three major installations are now on display all by WV artists); the community park (\$120,000 project now underway to improve entrance, parking lot, signage, landscaping and install public restrooms) and the Trail (the final piece of funding has been raised and construction of this 1 1/4 connection should start this summer). Beth was encouraged to attend future meetings.

IV. WVDOH Applications: Ella Belling and Steve Selin updated the Action Team on the work underway to submit the DOH TE and Parks Rec grants due March 14. Applications include signage, lighting trail amenities to connect town to trail under Deckers Creek; Star City connector loop from Mon River/Caperton Trail to Rivers Landing Development in Star City (another connecting project between town and trail)

Cathy McCollom reported on the request underway to the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to support the work in West Virginia. This grant request include some funding for master riverfront park

Morgantown City Manager reported that some and to support planning as well. The Action Team agrees that a master plan would allow for more focused project funding moving forward.

- V. Morgantown Signage Efforts Update: Bill Kawecki reported on the City's Signage and Branding effort now underway. George Papandreas with Main Street Morgantown added some details of timeline and process. There are two concurrent discussions: City-wide branding and signage and Main Street branding and signage. The final product recommended by consulting team will be presented to both. The community wide effort is largely centered on consistent street and directional signage and the branding of the community. Bill pointed out that related to trail wide signage, Parkersburg has successfully funded a design effort and will be moving forward with trail signage. Since all are in agreement that trail system wide signage serves as a significant amenity to visitors with consistent, familiar, signage; it makes sense to follow up with Parkersburg and review their signage. Bill agreed to stay in touch with the folks in Parkersburg.

Ella reported that it is her understanding that community was following Great Allegheny Passage Sign Guidelines which both Star City and Morgantown Action Team members felt was excellent as a model. All agreed that the Morgantown city signage process and the trail wide system signage are two processes with two products but that the final products should strive to be complimentary.

The Action Team Sign Committee, which had postponed meeting until the City Branding/Signing work was underway and more fully understood, agreed to meet. That meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday April 1, 4:30 pm at Terra Café. The meeting is open and will include Main Street and BOPARC representation.

a Mon River Trail fund raiser March 29th at Terra
Union Team to participate. The river and trail

programs work in close concert with one another as both encourage recreational use of our assets and focus on visitor attractions and improved experiences on trail and river. Supporting the Mon River Trail is a key component of the action team efforts.

In addition since discussion has arisen about river related events, John Pitts, Terra Café and coordinator of the fund raiser may prove to be a key partner in river front events. All are encouraged to stop by the Café on March 29th!

Events: BOPARC representatives, Melissa Burch and Marissa Travinski spoke about their enthusiasm for introducing more riverfront events at the Park. The first to be scheduled A Jazz Festival, is August 10th (Sunday) from 4 – 7 pm. They would like to grow this event and include arts. Bill Kawecki spoke about the possibility of an Arts Council involvement, and although just launching might be interested in pursuing an arts festival along the river, as that event was always quite popular with public. The River Town Program agreed to seek \$10-\$15,000 in support of events, particularly the restoration of the popular Arts festival if the Arts Council and others felt it could be re-launched effectively.

VI. Spring Launch (April 26, 10 am – 1 pm Star City; April 27 Morgantown, 1 pm – 4 pm)

BOPARC agreed to assist with this event; Marissa Travinski will be contact. They can also supply tools and bags. Tim Terman also donated bags and other clean up items. He also agreed to spread the word among his active constituency.

Everyone is encouraged to spread the word.

signing a flyer and poster to be printed and
March 27 on.

Steve Selin has reached out to WV Clubs and Wilderness Outreach for student participation.

A letter requesting food and drink from area restaurants has been developed and Steve agreed to solicit their contributions to this effort.

VII. Next Meeting

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